

REMARKS

Amendment of the Specification

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors. The amendments do not depart from the substance of the disclosure as filed as would be understood by a person skilled in the art. It is particularly noted that the correction to paragraph 32 to read, in part "If the data traffic has a source" is supported by the transition from decision 410 to decision 430 shown in Figure 4.

Objection to the Drawings under 37 CFR §1.121(d)

The Examiner objected to the drawings and requisitions new drawings sheets in compliance with 37 CFR §1.121(d). Replacement drawings sheets are transmitted herewith, and it is submitted that such drawings sheets are in compliance with 37 CFR §1.121(d). The figure labels are not blurred. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-24 under 35 USC §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-24 for allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,487,406 to Chang et al. While the Applicants disagree, Applicants have elected to cancel claims 1-24 and add new claims 25-46 which differently define the invention. The subject matter of these new claims is supported in the disclosure and drawings as filed, including at least paragraphs 23 to 33 of the description and Figures 2 and 4.

The invention claimed in claims 25-46 is neither anticipated nor suggested by Chang et al. The pending claims recite the feature of reprogramming a destination node, which has received data traffic, via a source roaming node, which is destined for a destination device and which has originated from a source device, to route any further data traffic destined for the source device to the source roaming node providing wireless access to the source device. This feature provides the advantageous result that any further data traffic destined for the source device from the destination device being provided wireless access by the destination

node is routed to the source device without involving the source home node of the source device. As discussed below, the Chang et al. reference neither teaches nor suggests this feature, and at least in this respect the claimed method, node, and mesh network are novel and inventive in view of Chang et al.

In particular, it is noted that the Chang et al. reference teaches that every mobile station is associated with a subnet in the network:

Each MS [mobile station] 18 is assigned a permanent IP address, called the home address, which identifies the mobile station=s [sic] home subnet and does not change with the location of the MS in the network. [col. 4, lns. 46-49]

It is further noted that the Chang et al. reference teaches that a mobile station may be provided network access by a foreign network:

When the MS is away from its home network, it is said to be in a foreign network and the foreign agent router fluction [sic] in that network forwards datagrams to and from the MS. [col. 4, lns. 61-64]

In view of the foregoing, it is to be noted that, while each mobile station taught by Chang et al. may be associated with a home subnet which is different from a foreign network which forwards datagrams to and from that mobile station, no other association with another subnet different from the subnet providing wireless access to the mobile station is taught.

It is further noted that Chang et al. teaches that:

Each particular subnet in the PCS network is also provided with one or more mobility agents, preferably included within network IP routers. In a particular embodiment, two agents are used: a Home Agent ("HA") and a Foreign Agent ("FA"). The HA implements a router function that maintains the current location of each MS in the network which calls that particular subnet home. The FA implements a router function which is used to facilitate data communication with mobile stations connected to the particular subnet but foreign to it, i.e. they call another subnet home. [col. 2, lns. 51-60]

It is to be noted, therefore, that the home agent and foreign agent taught by Chang et al. do not track mobile stations: 1) which are not associated with the subnet of the home agent; and 2) which are not being provided wireless access by the subnet of the foreign agent. In other words, the home agent and the foreign agent taught by Chang et al. are not disclosed as

tracking a roaming mobile device being serviced by a different subnet. Consequently, datagrams from that roaming mobile device must be routed through the roaming mobile device's home subnet.

Conversely, as an advantage of the presently-claimed feature of reprogramming a destination node to route any further data traffic destined for a source device to a source roaming node providing wireless access to the source device, any further data traffic destined for the source device from a destination device being provided wireless access by the destination node is routed to the source device without involving a source home node of the source device.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

Respectfully submitted,



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